AJ 102 Section 02
POLICE AND SOCIETY
Spring 2000

Instructor: Edwina Parsons, MPA, Lieutenant (Ret.) Hayward Police
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Text:
The Police in the Community by Linda S. Miller and Karen M. Hess, West/Wadsworth Company
(second edition 1998)

Course Objectives:
1. To expand student knowledge and understanding of issues, problems, and programs
   rooted in the relationship of criminal justice process (particularly police process), crime
   and the community.
2. To broaden perspective regarding community responsibility in criminal justice processes.
3. To assist students in their personal maturation as to intergroup attitudes and human
   relations sensitivities, and to introduce them to some basic skills in community problem-
   solving.

Means:
1. Students will have already been prepared by reading the assignments.
2. Students will receive a presentation from the instructor and participate in questioning.
   Films, guest speakers, reference materials will be provided.
3. Students will divide into groups for detailed discussions of the assignments, exchange,
   compare and critique with other team members.
4. Students will evaluate and critique the instructor, who, in turn, will evaluate and critique
   their performance through the grading system.

Term Project:
Students will write an 8 to 10 page assessing police/society relations. See Term Project.

Please Note: University policy is that any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will
be given a failing grade for the course.

Grading:
Grades will be computed as follows:
Midterm 1: ......................... 50 pts.
Midterm 2: ......................... 50 pts.
Final Examination: ........... 50 pts.
Term Project: ................... 50 pts.
Total 200 pts.

Examination Dates:
Midterm 1: Thursday, March 2
Midterm 2: Tuesday, April 4
Final Exam: Wednesday, May 24, 12:15 - 14:30
CALcNDER

Assignments and readings listed under homework for a certain date are due or due to be discussed in the following week’s classes.

WEEK OF:
January 25
Introductions. What this class will be like. Opening discussion: THE GAME PLAN
Homework: Review syllabus. Chapter 1: The Evolution of Community Policing

February 1
Lecture, group exercise. Homework: Chapter 2: The Community

February 8
Lecture, reference materials, video. Homework: Chapter 3: The Police

February 15
Lecture, reference materials. Homework: Chapter 4: Problem-solving Policing

February 22
Group exercise, lecture. Homework: Chapter 5: Implementing Community Policing

Review Chapters 1-5 midterm 1.

Thursday, March 2 (Midterm 1) Chapters 1-5
March 7

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR TERM PROJECT DUE MARCH 9

March 14
Guest Speaker. Homework: Chapter 8: Interacting with the Physically and Mentally Disabled

March 21
Video on disabled. Homework: Chapter 9: Communicating with the Elderly

March 28
Lecture: Chapter 10: Communicating with Youth: Victims and Offenders. Homework: Review for midterm 2

Tuesday, April 4 (Midterm 2) Chapters 6-10

April 4
Lecture, group exercise. Homework: Chapter 11: Communicating with Gangs and Gang Members

April 11
Video on Gangs. Group exercise. Homework: Chapter 12: Communicating with Victims and Witnesses

April 18
Guest speaker. Homework: Chapter 13: Communicating with the Media

EASTER VACATION

April 25

May 2
Lecture, Homework: Chapter 15: Criminal Justice Programs and Chapter 16 Programs for Youth

TERM PROJECT DUE IN CLASS MAY 4

May 9

FINAL EXAMINATION MAY 24 12:15-14:30 Chapters 11-17
ASSESSING POLICE/SOCIETY RELATIONS

Students will contact a member of a police, city, state, county or federal agency and ask him/her a series of questions relative to the environment of law enforcement in the community and degree of departmental and community levels of tension and/or cooperation.

Students may utilize the listed questions for background information, but also, must provide 10 questions of their own for the interview. These questions are due for my review by Thursday, March 9. The 8 to 10 page paper is due IN CLASS on Thursday, May 4. Late papers will be penalized 10%.

THE ENVIRONMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Has the city council/board of supervisors frequently involved itself in controversies concerning the agency?

2. What is the interest level of the city council/board of supervisors in the agency? Is it generally favorable, generally unfavorable, or largely indifferent to the agency?

3. Do citizens often bring complaints against the agency before the city council/board of supervisors?

4. What type of complaints are most often leveled against the agency?

5. Do citizens bring their complaints to the city council/board of supervisors because they get no satisfaction from the agency?

6. Have community groups in high-crime areas established citizen patrol teams because they feel police protection is failing?

7. In the event of a community crisis are there people or groups to whom you can go for aid in calming tensions or dispelling rumors?

8. Does the agency have access to local sources of private money to finance an important community relations effort when city or federal funding is lacking?

9. Does your city have a private organization that provides benefits to the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty?

THE NEWS MEDIA

10. Have the local news media recently taken editorial positions critical of the agency’s policies or operations and what were the issues?

11. Is your agency frequently the object of calls to local radio or television citizen talk shows?

THE CHANGING URBAN ENVIRONMENT

12. Are there areas of your city where, due to either population density or other reasons, people congregate on street corners during warm weather?

13. Are recreational facilities lacking in some sections of the city, thereby forcing youth to congregate on street corners?
14. Do certain areas of your city experience conflicts between roving gangs of youths?

15. What percentage of your city’s population is from minority groups?

16. Are these groups concentrated in certain areas of the city?

17. Do these groups have representatives in the local government in proportion to their numbers?

18. Are the spokesmen for minority groups in your city openly verbal?

19. Have there been political power struggles among disenfranchised groups in your city?

20. Do normal city tensions, minority-group problems, and rumors about political struggles hold the threat of violence in sections of your city?

21. Has there been racial tension within your agency in recent years?

22. Have there been incidents at roll call or over the police radio in which racial slurs or political comments have been made by police officers?

THE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION
23. Is there a formal procedure within the department for handling citizen complaints?

24. Are investigation results available to interested community residents?

25. Does your complaint procedure incorporate a means of appeal beyond the police department?

26. Do most arrests for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest occur in certain areas of the city?

27. Do minority group members account for the majority of those arrested on such charges?

SERVICE DEMANDS BY TYPE AND AREA
28. Does the department’s response time vary significantly in different sectors of the city?

30. Are citizens usually willing to cooperate with the police when asked to testify in court?

31. Does the number of resisting arrest complaints filed by your officers constitute more than 3 per cent of total arrests for a year?

32. Do your police officers encounter hostile groups of onlookers when responding to disturbance calls in certain areas?

33. Has there been a rise in the number of assaults on police officers in recent years?

34. If so, have these assaults been concentrated in certain areas of the city?

35. Have some officers, although working the same areas as others, been the object of more frequent assaults?